Department of Homeland Security
Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
for 25 September 2007

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
http://www.dhs.gov/

- The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reports that a University of Georgia researcher is developing a portable chemical weapons detection system that could be used for homeland security and to save soldiers' lives in the field. The technology uses human neural cells and an array of electrodes to "detect the presence of an outside agent, like nerve gas." (See item **5**)

- According to an *MSNBC* report, the federal government will take over the responsibility of matching passenger data to terrorist "watch lists." Under the new legislation, which is expected to be enforced in 2009, airline workers will collect over 30 pieces of data to be sent electronically to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The change will affect U.S. and international carriers, including those flying from Canada to the Latin America without stopping on U.S. land. (See item **12**)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities

Sustenance and Health: Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare

Federal and State: Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) − [http://www.esisac.com]

1. *September 24, Bloomberg* – (National) **Oil falls as production rises in Gulf of Mexico.** Crude oil fell for a second day as workers returned to rigs and platforms in the Gulf of Mexico after a storm threat passed. Oil companies sent workers back to the Gulf after a tropical depression

made landfall without becoming a storm. Crude output in the region has increased by 161,989 barrels a day since September 22, the U.S. Minerals Management Service said yesterday. Crude oil for November delivery fell as much as 61 cents to $81.01 a barrel in after-hours electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.
Source:
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=aOY4r9xmWcwU&refer=energy

2. *September 24, Inside Bay Area* – (California) **Companies seek ways to curb gas emissions.** California's power utilities, oil companies and natural gas refineries may be looking at the year 2012 with some trepidation. That is when the California Global Solutions Act ushers into effect new carbon dioxide emissions reductions to 1990 levels by 2020. However, one sector of the economy — the "clean tech" industry, largely based in Silicon Valley — will reap the windfall of a new investment climate that has already spawned dozens of renewable energy, biofuel and transportation technology companies who will rise to meet increased demand as the price of traditional energy goes up. Instead of spelling the end for the traditional energy sector, experts say there is a way that everyone can win — if the state adopts an aggressive "cap-and-trade" program that allows California's biggest polluters to choose how they want to meet mandated greenhouse gas reduction requirements. The eventual result will be more investment in solar, wind and other clean tech industries.
Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/localnews/ci_6983193

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Chemical Industry

3. *September 24, Herald News* – (New Jersey) **In rush to find school sites, N.J. lacks policy to protect public from chemical intrusion**. As students walked into the new Garfield Middle School building on their first day of school, chemical vapors found in June were being extracted from under the property. A noxious plume of trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene, which had evaporated from groundwater 15 feet below the ground's surface, was detected by environmental engineers in soil between the school and Fleischer Brook, which runs along the western side of the site. State and local officials said they believed the chemicals were left behind by a dry cleaner that was part of the strip mall demolished in 2004 to make way for the school for 1,200 sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students. State and local school district officials held a meeting with parents at which they told them about the soil vapor remediation system in place and that the 178,000-square foot building, which took three years and $37.4 million to build, was safe for staff and students to occupy. Three to four more tests will be conducted in the upcoming year, but there is no guarantee that the building will continue to get a clean bill of health.
Source:
http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFlZUVFeXk3MTYmZmdi
ZWw3Zjd2cWVlRUV5eTcxOTkzOTkmeXJpcnk3ZjcxN2Y3dnFlZUVFeXky

4. *September 24, Business Wire* – (Texas) **ExxonMobil Chemical announces expansion at its Rotterdam Aromatics Plant.** ExxonMobil Chemical announced it will invest in an expansion of its Rotterdam Aromatics Plant. The expansion will make this world-scale plant ExxonMobil's largest paraxylene production facility, increasing its paraxylene production

capacity by 25 percent and benzene production capacity by 20 percent. In addition, the new unit will employ ExxonMobil's proprietary PxMax(SM) technology to produce paraxylene and benzene. The PxMax process improves selectivity, generates less waste and reduces energy requirements versus existing technologies. This expansion project, which will be owned and operated by ExxonMobil Chemical Holland B.V., is targeted to help meet growing European demand for paraxylene and benzene. Construction for the expansion project will commence this year.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/070924/20070924005910.html?.v=1

5. *September 21, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **UGA researcher creates portable chemical detection device.** A University of Georgia stem cell researcher said he has discovered a new way to use cells — one that could help protect national security. He is working with the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory to use his neural cell research to create a portable chemical weapons detection system that could be used for homeland security and to save soldiers' lives in the field. The neural cells kits can be used to detect the presence of chemical agents. Current detection systems use nerve cells from mouse embryos. However, mouse cells only last about two weeks before dying off and do not respond in the same way as human cells. Neural cells from humans last longer than four months. The detection device, developed by Navy engineers, is about the size of carpenter's tool box. The cells sit on top of an array of electrodes that record changes in electrical activity, indicating the presence of an outside agent, like nerve gas.
Source:
http://www.ajc.com/services/content/metro/stories/2007/09/21/stem_0922_web.html?cxtype=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcat=13

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

6. *September 24th, Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **Chemical test barrier at Hanford stopping atomic waste.** Less radioactive strontium appears to be reaching the banks of the Columbia River at Hanford thanks to an underground chemical barrier still undergoing testing. This spring Fluor Hanford injected a 300-foot- long natural chemical barrier along the river near Hanford's N Reactor as part of a test of technology developed by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. More injections are planned, but results already are promising. One monitoring well between the barrier and the nearby Columbia River has had strontium levels decrease from more than 1,000 picocuries per liter to about 140 picocuries. Another well has had levels drop from about 4,500 picocuries per liter to about 200 picocuries. The chemical barrier is being tested after a stop-gap system did little to keep strontium from entering the river.
Source: http://www.tri-cityherald.com/tch/local/v-rss/story/9328034p-9243209c.html

7. *September 24, The Independent* – (National) **'Chain of errors' led to 36-hour US nuclear blunder.** Nuclear warheads capable of unleashing the equivalent of 10 Hiroshima bombs were mistakenly flown across the United States by a bomber crew who thought they were dummies, and the terrifying security lapse was not discovered for almost 36 hours, it has been revealed. The Pentagon is examining how so many vital checks and balances, painstakingly set out during the Cold War era, broke down to produce an incident that military personnel are calling

one of the biggest mistakes in US Air Force history. The flight last month was the first time in 40 years that nuclear bombs have been flown over US territory without specific authorization from the top of the air force. The B-52 took off from the remote Minot air force base in North Dakota with 12 cruise missiles that were being taken out of commission and scheduled for burial in Louisiana. The warheads on the decommissioned missiles should have been replaced with dummies of the same weight, but personnel failed to notice that six of the 12 were fully operational nuclear warheads. The chain of errors began in the camouflaged storage bunker in North Dakota, where nuclear warheads are supposed to be visually checked through a small window in the missile casing, marked with a ribbon, or otherwise catalogued using serial numbers, barcodes and other markings. The B-52 crew is also required to examine the missiles, but only the side carrying the six dummy warheads was checked in this case, it is believed. The air force insists that the public was never in danger and that even if the bomber had crashed, fail-safe mechanisms would have ensured that the bombs could not detonate.
Source: http://news.independent.co.uk/world/americas/article2993312.ece

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *September, Armed Forces Journal* – (National) **Support grows for standing up an Unconventional Warfare Command.** An idea that would not die may be getting a new lease on life. Despite years of the idea being shot down at the highest levels, there are again growing calls from inside and outside the military for the establishment of an "unconventional warfare command" that would oversee those special operations forces whose primary mission is not killing and capturing the enemy. Recent leadership changes in Congress, the Defense Department and U.S. Special Operations Command have given supporters of the idea fresh hope that the PowerPoint slides might finally become reality. At the core of the debate are the Army's Special Forces, who specialize in working "by, with and through" indigenous forces. They have long complained that they play second fiddle in U.S. Special Operations Command (SO COM) to those units that specialize in direct action, i.e. missions focused on capturing or killing enemies. The proposals for the creation of an unconventional warfare command fall into two rough categories: those that argue for breaking the unconventional warfare (UW) forces away from SO COM altogether, and those that advocate grouping those units under a two- or three-star UW command that remains part of SO COM as the indirect-action equivalent of JSOC.
Source: http://www.armedforcesjournal.com/2007/09/3049653

9. *September 22, The Boston Globe* – (National) **Navy awards Raytheon $1b contract.** Waltham defense contractor Raytheon Co. yesterday won a nearly $1 billion Navy contract that will take its combat systems for the new DDG 1000 Zumwalt-class destroyer from design into production. The contract had been widely anticipated since 2005, when Raytheon beat out rival Lockheed Martin Corp., the Pentagon's largest weapons maker, to be selected as prime contractor for the radar, sonar, communications, and electronics gear on the guided missile destroyer. However, it had been delayed several times as Raytheon has continued with its design work on systems for the 14,000-ton vessel, its single largest development program. While the destroyers are projected to cost $3 billion each, it has yet to be determined how many will be built. The Navy said it had awarded Raytheon's Integrated Defense Systems

division a contract worth up to $994.3 million for production and engineering work on the destroyer.
Source:
http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2007/09/22/navy_awards_raytheon_1b_contract/

Banking and Finance Sector

10. *September 24, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **Scammer claims to be 'verified by Visa'.** A new scam surfaced recently on the internet with the intent of stealing identities and personal information. According to a report, the scammer sends a phishing email asking recipients to register their Visa cards in a program, which ensures the card's security. Although Verified by Visa is a legitimate program, the link offered by the scammer at the end of the email leads to a different site where the sender's information is stolen. The return address on the email seems to pertain to Bank of America, enroll@boa.com, making it easier for recipients who are Bank of America customers to be deceived. The email also contains a warning, which security experts consider a cliché venue for fraudsters to instill a fear to comply in their victims. The warning reads "Please note: If you FAIL to update your Visa card, it will be temporarily disabled."
Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2007/09/visa_scam.html

11. *September 24, Chicago Tribune* **–** (National) **Safeguards sought to protect users of major job Web sites.** Security experts recommend two safeguards against work-at-home schemes requiring forwarding money or potentially stolen goods: a more vigilant approach to verifying the employer's background and more elaborate identification methods, which would prevent hackers from accessing the database. The warnings are timely, especially following the breach in the Monster.com website, which compromised the information of about 1.3 million subscribers. Site policies for individuals wishing to access a database vary from one company to another. For example, CareerBuilder requires an employer to pay a $600 fee, to supply a taxpayer identification number and its own Web site address to gain access to 50 resumes a day for two weeks, according to the company spokeswoman. Nevertheless, the U.S Postal Service representatives announced that "federal mail inspectors were still seeing a trend toward job-board recruitment for illicit money transfers." They based their statement on numerous reports coming from people who had been 'employed' by illicit companies, which did not pay them, but sold their social security information and other personal data such email addresses.
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-mon_jobsites_0924sep24,0,2073196.story

Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *September 23, MSNBC* – (International) **New rule would transfer no-fly lists from airlines to feds.** Airline companies worldwide are presently trying to formulate a formal response to a new federal proposal according to which the U.S. government would be responsible for matching passenger data to terrorist "watch lists." Under the new rule, airlines will retrieve

more than 30 pieces of data pertaining to each passenger 72 hours prior to departure and forward them to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). After analyzing the data, TSA officials will transmit the appropriate course of action that airlines are supposed to take with regards to the passengers. This change will affect 2.4 million travelers each day and will carry an approximate price tag of $1.33 billion. The data transfer is estimated to cost airlines between $145.2 million and $476.7 million over 10 years because of the necessary changes in the computer systems, and the additional time spent to gather the required information. According to the spokesman for the International Air Transport Association, the new rule will also affect foreign carriers not operating in the United States such as airlines conducting flights from Canada to Latin America, which will also have to send their passenger information to TSA. The changes will also affect private aviation carriers, which will be required to send the TSA 34 pieces of information for every passenger before taking off. The National Business Aviation Association Inc. (NBAA) released a formal statement saying "NBAA is troubled with the potential impact of this proposal, especially on small businesses." Significant concerns were also expressed by several associations and airlines with regard to the impact of the new federal rule on consumer rights and privacy. The new change is scheduled to be enforced in 2009.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20951244/

13. *September 21, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. admits nearly 10,000 from "terrorism" states.** The Diversity Visa Program through which over 55,000 immigrants from 179 countries come to the US each year, came under attack in a report released by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). The State Department criticized the program, which facilitated U.S. visas to almost 10,000 people from countries labeled as sponsors of terrorism. The department claims that there is no assurance that these people will not commit terrorist acts after arriving in the U.S. or that those admitted through the program are not terrorists using fake identities. In order to exemplify their fears, the department used the statements made by a U.S. officer in Turkey, who said "it would be possible for Iranian intelligence officers to pose as applicants and not be detected if their identities were not already known to U.S. intelligence." "We found no documented evidence of ... immigrants from state sponsors of terrorism committing any terrorist acts," replied the GAO. The State Department recommended in 2003 the elimination of the countries designated as state terrorism sponsors from the Diversity Visa Program, a change that has not been yet implemented. The Department of Homeland Security did not release a public response to the GAO report.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070921/us_nm/security_usa_visas_dc;_ylt=AqI_FkhhhlnTNbD s7Jb8dX8WIr0F

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

14. *September 24, North Platte Bulletin* – (National) **Farm groups: Canadian border could open to mad cows.** Farm and ranch groups are battling the USDA over beef shipments from Canada out of concern about bovine spongiform encephalopathy, commonly known as mad cow disease. There have been nine confirmed cases of mad cow disease in Canada, and shipment of older cows that might carry the disease, will be allowed without inspection, according to the proposal by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. According to one veterinarian, "the U.S. Centers for Disease Control recently concluded that Canadian cattle are 26 times more likely to test positive for [mad cow disease] than U.S. cattle." The border will open again to Canadian cattle on November 19 unless Congress intervenes.
Source:
http://www.northplattebulletin.com/index.asp?show=news&action=readStory&storyID=13048&pageID=29

15. *September 24, USAgNet* – (National) **USDA Releases Report on Ethanol Production in Ag Transportation.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture Friday announced the publication of Expansion of U.S. Ethanol from the Agricultural Transportation Perspective, a report on ethanol transportation. This report provides an overview of transportation issues facing the U.S. ethanol industry in the context of the U.S. corn market and provides a frame of reference as more ethanol transportation information is developed. According to this report, corn use for fuel is likely to have a mixed impact on rail, truck and barge transportation, both in the shipping of corn to the ethanol plants and the shipping of ethanol to blending locations. Currently trucks are used to ship most of the corn used by ethanol plants, but the newer and bigger ethanol plants also could use rail for inbound corn shipments. Railroads, trucks and barges transport most ethanol today from production or import locations to where it is blended with gasoline. To sustain market growth needed to meet ethanol production targets, the report concludes that infrastructure must be developed for transporting biofuels and co-products to market. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service will continue to examine ethanol's impacts on agricultural transportation and plans to regularly issue reports about its findings as part of its weekly reporting during the coming fiscal year.
Source:
http://www.northplattebulletin.com/index.asp?show=news&action=readStory&storyID=13048&pageID=29

16. *September 24, North Platte Bulletin* – (North Carolina) **USDA declares 85 North Carolina Counties disaster areas.** A persistent and severe drought has prompted the U.S. Department of Agriculture to designate 85 North Carolina counties as federal disaster areas. In addition, 11 contiguous counties, those adjacent to declared disaster areas, are also included in the disaster declaration under agency rules. North Carolina's governor noted that North Carolina farmers have experienced major losses this year as a result of the drought's affects on important crops like corn, cotton, hay, pasture, peanuts, soybeans and tobacco.
Source: http://carolina-virginiafarmer.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=30087&fpstid=2

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Water Sector

17. *September 24, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **'Crypto' outbreak hits hundreds across West.** The Rocky Mountain West has seen significant increases in residents affected by the waterborne parasite cryptosporidium in the past year. Montana was the only state to see a decrease this year, while Idaho reported 229 cases (up from an average of 23), Utah more than 1,600 cases, and others also reported an increase. Health officials think that recreational water parks, where the water is recycled, are to blame for the outbreaks. The parasite lives in fecal matter and is most easily passed through water. Even in properly chlorinated water, the hard outer shell of the parasite allows it to survive; however, it is susceptible to ultraviolet light and many water parks are considering adding these devices.
Source:
http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2007/09/24/news/regional/b95aefc64025aca5872573 5e00212014.txt

18. *September 22, The Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Dirty water from site of U stadium was sent to river.** Dirty water from a University of Minnesota stadium construction was dumped into the Mississippi River earlier this year, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The MPCA inspected the site and issued a warning that "identified seven potential environmental violations, including a 'sediment plume with a chemical odor' observed in the Mississippi River." The University of Minnesota could face tens of thousands of dollars in fines due to this. The groundwater was pumped out during the instillation of a major sewer pipe, which was below the water table. The university's permit required that "any water pumped from the site must be filtered to capture sediment and contaminants before they enter street drains." Apparently, the contractor did not have the necessary equipment to carry this out. In a letter, the MPCA "identified the seven alleged violations and said the university should immediately stop discharging groundwater to the storm sewer because of pollution observed in the Mississippi River." The university said that it did so immediately and has not heard from the agency since, but the agency stated that litigation is still pending.
Source: http://www.startribune.com/462/story/1440027.html

19. *September 21, The Gresham Outlook* – (Oregon) **Water found safe after vandalism.** Vandals broke into the Grant Butte Reservoir on Wednesday and opened an access hatch. Several tests were done on the water and all came back negative for contamination. Regardless of the results, the city plans to "drain, clean and sanitize the 10-million gallon tank" to be safe. Immediately following the incident, the city stopped using the water from the reservoir, instead taking it from another source.
Source: http://www.theoutlookonline.com/news/story.php?story_id=119043781739960600

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *September 24, Atlanta Constitution Journal* – (National) **New Technology may mean diseases can't hide.** A new technology, called metagenomics, was used to link an unusual virus to the massive die-off of honeybees last winter. Scientists ground up bees from diseased hives and healthy hives and did an inventory of all the DNA in every sample. A machine spelled out the genetic code of the bees and all of the bacteria, viruses and other pathogens or parasites in each sample and then ran a search through a National Institutes of Health database

of just about all of the known DNA sequences in the world. According to scientists, the technology has broad implications and will allow health officials to scan livestock and wildlife for potential threats to humans.
Source: http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/stories/2007/09/22/genome_0923.html

21. *September 24, Medical News Today* – (National) **Air pollution particles trigger blood clots, new study.** A new study by researchers at Northwestern University suggests that the particulate matter in air pollution accelerates clotting by stimulating a spike in levels of IL-6, a pro-inflammatory protein produced by the body in response to stress on the immune system. Researchers said that this could explain why spikes in air pollution are closely followed by significant increases in heart attacks within 24 hours.
Source: http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/83388.php

22. *September 22, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Viral illness hits infants in Northwest Alaska villages.** According to State health officials an unnamed viral outbreak this month in Northwest Alaska has sickened nine infants, some of whom were hospitalized. Officials said that some of the infants had meningitis and inflammation around the heart and in the heart muscle.
Source: http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=7114087

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Government Facilities Sector

23. *September 23, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Hill Air Force Base starts soil cleanup.** This winter, Hill Air Force Base officials learnt of the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls around base housing units. So far, approximately 1,700 cubic yards of soil have been relocated to a hazardous waste dump, as part of the cleanup process. The area should be restored by this winter.
Source: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_6976973

24. *September 22, Associated Press* – (Texas) **School looks at security after gunman enters campus.** On Friday, two men started an argument at an apartment complex close to the Central Medical Magnet High School in Beaumont, Texas. One man shot the other, and the victim fled into the school, eventually hiding in the gym. The principal and another staff member heard the victim and used the intercom to issue the code for all doors to be locked and students to be kept inside. The gunman was arrested at the apartment complex and no students were injured. Later that day, the principal spoke with police officers about further security measures.
Source: http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/5156746.html

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *September 24, AP* – (Massachusetts) **Report: Mass. needs Homeland Security improvements.** Three large-scale evacuation centers, a statewide text messaging alert system and inspections of smaller chemical facilities are some of the recommendations in a new state

homeland security report. The report, scheduled to be released by the governor's office Monday, finds Massachusetts needs to do more to toughen defenses against terrorist strikes and natural disasters while at the same time improving its ability to respond. Better communication between state and local agencies and "first responders" – police, firefighters and emergency medical workers – is key to preventing and recovering from a disaster, according the administration's undersecretary for homeland security. The state is particularly focused on defending systems that would have regional repercussions if attacked, including major transportation hubs, she said. Additionally, she expressed concerns about the state's ability to manage a major hurricane, disastrous fire or disease outbreak. The key, she said, is continually improving communication and information sharing between agencies.
Source: http://wbztv.com/local/local_story_266173239.html

26. *September 24, KYW Newsradio* – (Virginia) **Va. Tech offers public new emergency notification system.** Some 17,000 people have signed up for a new notification system at Virginia Tech. Alerts can be sent by email, text message, and online instant message to let participants know about emergencies. One such system offers the public and first responders information in a hurry. Much of the criticism aimed at Virginia Tech administrators involved the lack of notification the campus and community received during the April massacre in which 33 people were killed, including the gunman. Now, California-based REACT Systems is offering its solution, which can send alerts via text message, email, fax, instant message, audio and video - a redundancy the company says can make up for lost or jammed cellular networks, as was seen in New York on 9/11. The company's CEO says the software can be tailored to fit both small school districts and multinational companies, and that a small school or company can install a system for about $2,500.
Source: http://www.kyw1060.com/pages/992073.php?contentType=4&contentId=956072

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Information Technology

27. *September 24, Reuters* – (National) **Unisys probed for Homeland Security breach: report.** The FBI is investigating allegations that Unisys Corp failed to detect a Chinese Web site's cyber break-ins on computers at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and then tried to cover up its shortcomings, *The Washington Post* reported on Monday. Unisys won a $1 billion contract in 2002 to build and manage information technology networks at the department and the Transportation Security Administration. But evidence gathered by the Homeland Security Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives indicates network-intrusion devices were not properly installed and monitored, the Post said. As a result, some 150 DHS computers were compromised by hackers using a Chinese-language Web site from June through October in 2006. Unisys, based in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, disputed the charge with a statement saying: "We can state generally that the allegation that Unisys did not properly install essential security systems is incorrect. In addition, we routinely follow prescribed security protocols and have properly reported incidents to the customer in accordance with those protocols." Besides the original $1 billion contract, Unisys received a $750 million follow-up deal in 2005, the Post said. An aide on the Homeland Security Committee told the newspaper that the FBI was investigating Unisys for criminal fraud. The committee also has called for the DHS to look into the matter. The committee also said the contractor allegedly had falsely certified the computer

network had been protected to cover up its failings, the Post said.
Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN2436745420070924

28. *September 24, IDG News Service* – (International) **Euro think tank recommends unbundling Windows from PCs.** A pro-business think tank in Europe has recommended unbundling Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system from sales of new PCs in order to give customers more choice when buying a new computer. A report from the Globalisation Institute in Brussels urges the European Commission to require that PCs and operating systems be sold separately in Europe to break Microsoft's monopoly in the desktop OS market. "Microsoft's dominant position is not in the public interest. It limits the market and has slowed technical development to the prejudice of consumers," said the report. The report is gaining attention partly because the Globalisation Institute usually advocates a hands-off approach to business regulation. It researches and develops policy options that are sometimes championed by politicians. The report comes one week after Europe's second-highest court turned down Microsoft's appeal of the European Commission's 2004 antitrust ruling against it, which fined Microsoft around $600 million for abusing its OS monopoly.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/09/24/Euro-think-tank-recommends-unbundling-Windows-from-PCs_1.html

29. *September 21, Computerworld* – (National) **New Firefox 3.0 alpha blocks malware, secures plug-in updates.** Mozilla Corp. updated the preview of Firefox 3.0 to alpha 8 late yesterday, unveiling for the first time to users several security features it has talked up for months. Among the security provisions debuting in the new alpha of "Gran Paradiso," the code name for Firefox 3.0, are built-in anti-malware warnings and protection against rogue extension updates, according to documentation Mozilla posted to its Web site. The malware blocker, which was first mocked up in June, will block Web sites thought to contain malicious downloads. The feature, a companion to the phishing site alert system in the current Firefox 2.0, will use information provided by Google Inc. to flag potentially-dangerous sites, warn anyone trying to reach those URLs with Firefox and automatically block access to the site. Also included is a check meant to prevent plug-ins automatic updates from sending users to malicious sites where they might be infected by attack code or drive-by downloads. The newest preview, which can be downloaded in versions for Windows, Mac OS X and Linux from the Mozilla site, still comes with a warning to end users: "Alpha 8 is intended for Web application developers and our testing community. Current users of Mozilla Firefox should not use Gran Paradiso Alpha 8," the browser's release notes. Mozilla has not officially committed to a release date for the final version of Firefox 3.0.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9038258&intsrc=hm_list

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us−cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it−isac.org/.

Communications Sector

30. *September 24, RCR Wireless News* – (National) **UMB specification published.** The groups behind the Ultra Mobile Broadband technology for wireless communications—which is often referred to as a 4G technology—announced that the specifications for the air interface have been published, and that UMB is now poised to become an official standard. The move is notable as it essentially creates a set of specifications that carriers, equipment makers and others can work from. UMB, an acronym that replaces the CDMA EV-DO Revision C designation—supports peak download data rates of up to 288 Mbps in a 20 MHz slice of bandwidth, according to the CDMA Development Group and the Third Generation Partnership Project 2 (3GPP2). The technology supports wireless Voice over IP calling and other high-tech features. UMB stands on the CDMA evolution path, and is often touted as an alternative to Long Term Evolution technology. LTE stands on the W-CDMA evolution path. According to the Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP), LTE is set to support peak data rates of 100 Mbps within a 20 MHz slice of spectrum. Work on the specifications for LTE technology is set to be completed sometime this month. The 3GPP association works on technology specifications for the W-CMA evolution path, while the 3GPP2 works on technology for the CDMA evolution path. The UMB announcement is notable as Verizon Wireless—a major CDMA backer—is considering joining its European parent company Vodafone in a move to LTE technology in order to improve international roaming and lower equipment costs. Source: http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070924/FREE/70924001/1014

31. *September 24, AP* – (National) **New service eavesdrops on Internet calls.** A startup has come up with a new way to make money from phone calls connected via the Internet: having software listen to the calls, then displaying ads on the callers' computer screens based on what is being talked about. For instance, a caller talking about going for dinner might see ads to local restaurants and restaurant review sites, while someone pondering whether to buy a new computer might see ads for computer stores. Relevant unsponsored links also appear. That is, if the system works. It is notoriously difficult for computers to recognize speech. A test of Puddingmedia's beta software was a mixed success according to one reporter. In the test, the quality of the call did not seem to be affected by the extra step. The company's CEO stressed that the calls are not stored in any way, nor does Puddingmedia keep a record of which keywords were picked up from a particular call. Outfits like eBay Inc.'s Skype unit would be possible partners. Skype provides free calls between computers but charges for calls to phone numbers so it can recoup connection fees charged by phone companies. Those costs could possibly be offset with an advertising model like Puddingmedia's.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070924/ap_on_hi_te/ads_that_listen;_ylt=AoKC58GhMEv_Ijc3SALw2Lis0NUE

Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *September 24, NBC 17* – (North Carolina) **Fayetteville strip mall burns near downtown.** A

large fire that erupted at about 12:30 a.m. burned businesses in a Fayetteville strip mall early Monday in an area near the Festival Park Plaza. Portions of Rowan Street had been closed as fire officials battled flames throughout the morning. There is no word yet on the cause of the fire or the amount of damage. It is the second fire in recent days in Fayetteville. A Smithfield Chicken and BBQ restaurant at Raeford and Cliffdale roads also burned over the weekend.
Source:http://www.nbc17.com/midatlantic/ncn/news.apx.-content-articles-NCN-2007-09-24-0004.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

33. *September 24, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Congress moves to close land to development.** Congress is close to designating several million acres as wilderness area. Many of these areas are in the American West and passage of the bills would close them to development. As such, they are drawing opposition from the timber, oil, and mining industries. Property-rights and off-road vehicle activists are also against the bills. Despite this opposition, it appears likely the bills will pass with bipartisan support.
Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119058625263136698.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

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Dams Sector

34. *September 24, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Officials seek tree-cutting delay.** Two congressmen requested the Multnomah County Drainage District to temporarily stop cutting trees on a Columbia River levee while residents of Bridgeton, Oregon present their case for retaining the trees. The debate centers on whether the trees make the levee safer or more dangerous. Some say "storms could blow over bigger trees and tear out roots, weakening the levees." While other experts point out that "logging trees can leave behind roots to rot, possibly becoming seepage points during high water."
Source:
http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/119059710722760.xml&coll=7

35. *September 23, WDSU News Channel 6, New Orleans, Louisiana* – (Louisiana) **St. Bernard officials hot over scorched levee.** A fire, apparently deliberately set, burned almost three miles of grass around a levee in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. The grass was planted 18 months ago to protect the levee from erosion.
Source: http://www.wdsu.com/news/14186010/detail.html

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